

MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities
and Substance Abuse Services**

Holiday Inn North Raleigh (2805 Highwoods Boulevard)

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Attending:

Commission/Committee Members: Don Stedman, Ph.D., Chairman, Bernard Sullivan, Jr., Ph.D., Pender McElroy, Judy Lewis, Dorothy Rose Crawford, Lou Adkins, Martha Martinat, Ann Suggs, M.D., Ellen Holliman, Martha Macon, Emily Moore, Anna Scheyett, Fredrica Turner Stell, Floyd McCullouch

Ex-Officio Member: Bob Hedrick

Excused: Marvin Swartz, M.D., Patricia Chamings, Ph.D., Pearl Finch, Joe Coulter, Paul H. Gulley, MD, Raymond Reddick

Others: Peggy Balak, Susan Collins, Stephanie Alexander, Marilyn Brothers, Jack Blackley, M.D., Joe Donovan, Don Willis, Stephen Haebig, Mazie Fleetwood, Julia Bick, Debra King, Lisa Gilbert, Beverly Sullivan, Charles Davis, Cynthia Wiford, Jim Jarrard, Rich Visingardi, John Crawford, Flo Stein

Handouts: Agenda; April 3, 2003 Minutes; June 12, 2003 Minutes; List of Advisory Committee members, including ex-officio member; State Plan Draft 2003 Comments; Proposed Statement of support for Mental Health Redesign Initiative; Service Definitions and Chart; Housing Highlights; ARC Brochure; Comparison Sheet of Current ACTT Definition with Proposed ACTT Definition; Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); CASA Brochure

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review

Dr. Don Stedman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. All attending made introductions.

Dr. Stedman announced that the next meeting will be held on October 2, 2003. He thanked the Committee and staff for their work in June at the special called meeting. The Committee was informed that subsequent to the June 12 meeting Commission comments were submitted to the Division on State Plan 2003. Also at that meeting, the Committee approved the mission statement to go to the full Commission in August. The resolution on the sale of the Dix Property is still pending.

Mr. McElroy briefly reviewed the meeting of the Commission Chairs and the Division's Executive Leadership Team. The group discussed the need for enhancing the role of the Advisory Committee in the face of reform and the need for the Commission to provide

advice and counsel as the Division transitions into the new system. He stated that the Commission will also be busy during the transition with many rule changes and revisions. Mr. McElroy indicated that, with permission from the Chair, Dr. Visingardi would like to join the Committee today to further discuss the issues the Division would be interested in further exploring with the Advisory Committee. Hearing no objections, the chair agreed to the change in agenda.

Review/Adoption of a Statement of Support of the Process for Redesign:

The Chair introduced the resolution that the Committee has previously discussed in support of the Mental Health System Redesign. Emily Moore moved to adopt the statement. Ellen Holliman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation on Housing:

Dr. Stedman, along with Lou Adkins, introduced Julia Bick of DHHS and Debra King of CASA. Lisa Gilbert of Housing Works arrived and the three women gave a presentation on the housing efforts in our state from both a state and local perspective. Each presenter gave a very informative presentation and answered questions from the Committee members.

Julia Bick gave an overview of the broader housing issues as it relates to people with disabilities. She discussed some of the barriers to providing low cost, affordable housing, including an overview of Section 8, discrepancies between income and rent, and funding streams for compensation of housing owners. (Her power point presentation is attached.)

Debra King of CASA described their efforts to build and refurbish houses for people with disabilities. CASA is a private non-profit organization created by the Wake Area Authority to increase the availability and accessibility of housing in Wake County specifically addressing the needs of people with disabilities. She addressed the difficulties consumers have when they do not receive appropriate services (including case management) to support them in their efforts to maintain in the community. She also described the grants and funding that helps pay for affordable housing.

Lisa Gilbert of Housing Works explained that their organization is under contract with the Division to manage a portion of the Mental Health Trust Fund dollars set aside for housing. They currently fund the following: (a) Housing incentive fund program: provides up to \$10,000 for development costs and up to \$100,000 per project for start up costs, (b) Housing Modification program, and (c) Development of new models. They also have a grant from the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities to enhance housing options across the state.

The presenters noted that there are over 200 housing organizations in the state. The key to improving access to affordable housing is for human service agencies to collaborate with these already existing housing organizations, not for human service agencies to become housing experts. It was suggested that the LME's partner with the housing agencies in their areas to collaborate in responding to the obvious needs for affordable housing for people with disabilities.

The committee agreed that housing is an issue that they would like to study in more depth and provide advice and counsel to the Secretary and the Division. The Chair thanked the presenters for the information and discussion today and for their work in this very important area.

Outcome: Dr. Stedman proposed convening a sub-group to formulate a coherent statement from the Advisory Committee regarding housing issues. This subgroup will address: (a) identification of housing issues for people with disabilities, (b) current resources, services, and supports, (c) barriers, and (d) recommendations to improve housing access, availability, and quality. Martha Martinat moved to accept the Chairs proposal. Judy Lewis offered a second and all approved. Members asked to sit on the sub-committee are: Don Stedman, Chair, Ellen Holliman, July Lewis, Lou Adkins and Bob Hedrick. The group agreed to meet prior to the August 25 Commission meeting. Stephanie Alexander, staff, will arrange a time and place and will inform all Committee members in case others would like to attend.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA):

Marilyn Brothers gave an overview of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (see handout). This federal statute affects all providers who electronically bill for health care services. It is anticipated to have a major impact on the mh/dd/sas system including the potential need for rule and policy changes. Marilyn will return periodically to keep the Commission apprised of new information and needed actions resulting from HIPAA.

The Advisory Committee members expressed their appreciation for all the hard work Marilyn has done for them during her tenure as staff and hearing officer for the Division.

Service Definitions Review:

Stephanie Alexander facilitated the review of the proposed new service definitions for substance abuse and mental health services.

Syd Wiford presented the Substance Abuse Definitions (handout). Ms. Wiford works for UNC-CH in the area of substance abuse services. She is also a board member of the Durham Area Program.

Jim Jarrard, Team Leader for Accountability Team in the Division, presented the Adult and Child Mental Health Service Definitions.

There was much discussion regarding these definitions. Comments were written as a separate document to be submitted to the Division of MH/DD/SAS as formal feedback from the Commission. The comments as submitted are attached.

Update from Dr. Rich Visingardi Regarding the ELT and Commission Chairs Meeting:

The ELT and Commission Chairs have agreed to meet each quarter during the two days set aside for the Rules and Advisory Committee meetings. The meeting yesterday focused on the importance of the Commission in its advisory role identifying and addressing major issues affecting service delivery in the state.

Dr. Visingardi spoke on the following issues:

- The need to develop a comprehensive mh/dd/sa system.
 - Currently the system is so fragmented that essentially there is no system.
 - Self-interest continues to dominate the thinking of those providing feedback keeping the system in silos.
 - The system must have an unbroken chain of accountability and corresponding authority from the state to the LMEs to the providers.
 - System development comes from holistic thinking and dialogue not from simply problem solving individual issues.
- The development of a comprehensive finance strategy designed to fund only those services that provide good outcomes for people with disabilities and their families. The finance strategy for the division is due in the 3rd quarter of this fiscal year. It will cover (a) enrollment/billing, (b) fiscal policy, and (c) confronting the realities of deregulation—performance expectations, outcomes, regulatory compliance, CMS evolution with federal regulations.
- The radical change in the system that will come from a truly collaborative relationship with people with disabilities. Dialogue with people with disabilities must be collaborative, not patronizing.

Discussion ensued about how issues could be identified and processed by the Advisory Committee in a way that provides a forum for dialogue among the Commission and the Division and the public to assist in the many transition issues inherent in reform. Mr. McElroy recommended that the Committee begin this process with the continued study and recommendations on the housing issues addressed at this meeting. He suggested that the group will continue to identify other issues in collaboration with the Division and that the best methods for doing this work will develop as the work proceeds. The Committee agreed to discuss this in more detail at its October Advisory meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Attachments